AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims. The following listing of claims replaces all previous versions in the Application:

What is claimed is:

1 – 44. (Canceled)

45. (Currently Amended) A system for allocating resources to service requests comprising:

a load balancing manager;

a service index ~~block~~ table, part of the load balancing manager, having a plurality of super group indexes, the service index ~~block~~ table ~~being coupled~~ to receive a first service index corresponding to a service request ~~and configured~~, the service index table to provide a first of a plurality super group indexes in response to the first service index, the service index table to provide a first of a plurality of balancing policies in response to receiving the service index;

a super group block, part of the load balancing manager, ~~having a plurality of resource group indexes, the super group block being coupled to receive the first super group index and configured~~ to provide a first of a plurality of super groups, each super group having one or more resource group indexes in response to the provision of the first super group index;

a first load balancer, part of the load balancing manager, to select a first resource group index from among the first super group based on the first load balancing policy;

a group block, part of the load balancing manager, ~~having a plurality of resource indexes, the group block being coupled to receive the first resource group index and configured~~ to provide ~~at least~~ one or more resource indexes in response to the provision of the first resource group index, each resource index corresponding to one of a plurality of ~~resources.~~ resources; and

a second load balancer, part of the load balancing manager, to select a first resource index from among the one or more resource indexes based on a second load balancing policy, to allocate the resource corresponding to the first resource index.

46. (Canceled)

47. (Previously Presented) The system of **Claim 46** wherein the resource is a server.

48. (Canceled)

49. (Canceled)

50. (Previously Presented) The system of **Claim 49** wherein the second load balancing policy is selected based on the first load balancing policy index.

51. (Currently Amended) The system of **Claim 49** wherein the second load balancing policy is ~~configured~~ selected independently of the first load balancing policy index.

52. (Previously Presented) The system of **Claim 45** further comprising a content analysis engine configured to receive at least a portion of a data packet and generate a service index based on at least one of domain name and URL pattern matching.

53. (Currently Amended) The system of **Claim 45** further comprising a lookup table coupled to receive at least a portion of a data packet ~~and configured to~~, the lookup table to select the ~~first~~ service index based on at least one of a destination IP, a destination port and a protocol corresponding to the data packet.

54. (Currently Amended) The system of **Claim 45** further comprising a history table ~~configured~~ to ~~receive the first service index and~~ override the load balancing manager and select a ~~second~~ resource ~~index~~ based on a persistence policy if a match is found in the history table corresponding to the service request.

55. (Canceled)

56. (Currently Amended) A method for allocating resources to service requests comprising:

receiving a first service index corresponding to a service request;

generating a first super group index in response to receiving the ~~first~~ service index;

generating a first load balancing policy index in response to receiving the service index;

selecting a first load balancing policy from among a plurality of load balancing policies based on the first load balancing policy index;

generating a plurality of ~~first~~ resource group indexes in response to the first super group index; ~~and~~

applying the first load balancing policy to select one of the plurality of resource group indexes;

generating ~~at least~~ one or more resource indexes in response to the selection of the one ~~first~~ resource group index, the at least one resource index corresponding to at least one of a plurality of ~~resources.~~ resources; and

assigning a first resource to the service request, the one resource index indicating the resource.

57. (Canceled)

58. (Currently Amended) The method of **Claim ~~57~~ 56** wherein the resource is a server.

59. (Canceled)

60. (Currently Amended) The method of **Claim ~~59~~ 56** further comprising:

~~generating at least one additional resource group index in response to the first super group index; and~~

applying a second load balancing policy to ~~the first resource group index and the at least one additional resource group index~~ to select one of the at least one ~~the first~~ resource ~~group~~ index.

61. (Previously Presented) The method of **Claim 60** further comprising selecting the second load balancing policy based on the first load balancing policy index.

62. (Previously Presented) The method of **Claim 60** further comprising selecting the second load balancing policy independently of the first load balancing policy index.

63. (Previously Presented) The method of **Claim 56** further comprising:

receiving at least a portion of a data packet having a domain name and a URL; and

generating a service index based on the domain name and pattern matching of within the URL.

64. (Previously Presented) The method of **Claim 56** further comprising:

receiving at least a portion of a data packet having a destination IP, a destination port and a protocol; and

generating a service index based on at least one of the destination IP, the destination port and the protocol.

65. (Currently Amended) The method of **Claim 56** further comprising ~~selecting~~ overriding the assigning of the first resource and assigning a second ~~server~~ resource to the service request based on a persistence policy if a match is found in a history table corresponding to the service request.

66. (Currently Amended) The method of **Claim 65** wherein the steps of generating the first super group index, generating a first load balancing policy index, selecting a first load balancing policy, generating a plurality of ~~first~~ group indexes, generating one or more resource indexes, and assigning a first resource ~~and generating a first server~~ being performed only if a match is not found in the history table corresponding to the service request.

67. (Canceled)